



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

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Corps of Engineers release a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) concerning the lower Colorado River basin, Colorado River, Texas

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces the completion and publication of the draft PEIS addressing proposed activities to provide flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration within the lower Colorado River basin, Colorado River, Texas. The non-federal sponsor for the PEIS is the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA).

The study area, the standard project floodplain of the lower Colorado River and its tributaries, has undergone extensive alterations in the past 50 years due to extensive urbanization, construction of flood control and water supply lakes, channelization/levee projects, and numerous smaller projects which have affected the physical characteristics of the lower Colorado River watershed.

This PEIS focuses on various potential Corps projects that could be initiated within the basin under studies like the Lower Colorado River Basin Feasibility Study. Reasonably foreseeable projects currently being pursued within the Colorado River basin are Highland Lakes, Wharton Creek, Onion Creek, Shoal Creek, and Walnut Creek Interim Feasibility Studies.

Public Meetings will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on April 12, 2005 at McKinney Roughs, 1884 HWY 71 West, Cedar Creek, Texas 78612; April 13, 2005 at the Lower Colorado River Authority Western District Complex, 8347 Ranch Road 1431 West, Buchanan Dam, Texas 78609; and April 14, 2005 at the Best Western Matagorda Hotel, Matagorda Ballroom 2 & 3, 407 7th Street, Bay City, Texas 77414.

The Notice of Availability of the draft PEIS is anticipated to appear in the *Federal Register* on or about March 25, 2005. The official closing date for the receipt of comments will be 45-days from the date the Notice of Availability appears in the Federal Register. For information about the PEIS, please visit the project website at www.fdep.org.